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(71) Sökande Patrik Eriksson, Enebyberg SE
Applicant (s) Henrik Skinstad, Stocksund SE
 David Logg, Lidingö SE
 Robert Skinstad, Vallentuna SE

(21) Patentansökningsnummer 0303367-7
Patent application number

(86) Ingivningsdatum 2003-12-12
Date of filing

Stockholm, 2004-12-21

För Patent- och registreringsverket
For the Patent- and Registration Office

Görel Gustafsson

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+46 8 782 25 00
Vx 08-782 25 00Telex
17978
PATOREG STelefax
+46 8 666 02 86
08-666 02 86

Trade method**Field of the invention**

- 5 The present invention relates to a system for administrating purchase of a product or service using a valuable document.

The present invention also relates to a method for managing valuable documents.

- 10 The present invention further relates to a computer program for carrying out such a method.

Background of the invention

- 15 The modern world is filled with forms and the like, leading to a never-ending administration of papers. There is thus the desire to reduce the paperwork, and also to make the administration of papers more efficient. In particular there is a need to facilitate the administration of for example invoices and other valuable documents.

20 **Summary of the invention**

An object of the present invention relates to the problem of achieving a cost effective system and method for administration of valuable documents.

- 25 This is achieved by a method according to claim 1.

Preferably the method further comprises the features of claim 2.

Advantageously an automatization of manual processes is achieved.

Furthermore, an organization can achieve a better control of available funds using the system according to the invention.

Brief description of the drawings

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Figure 1a illustrates schematically a system for managing valuable documents according to an embodiment of the invention.

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Figure 2 schematically shows a part of Figure 1 with an additional feature according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 schematically shows a valuable document according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 4 illustrates schematically software modules according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 illustrates schematically a method for managing valuable documents according to an embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 6 illustrates schematically in greater detail a method for managing valuable documents according to an embodiment of the present invention.

25

Figure 7 illustrates an electronic device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed description of the drawings

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Figure 1 illustrates a system for managing valuable documents. In particular it relates to a system for managing invoices.

A server 100 is adapted for communication with a printing unit 150 via a link 186. The server 100 is adapted for communication with a network 105 via a communication link 180. The network is preferably the Internet. A communication terminal 102 is adapted for communication with the server 100 via communication link 182. The communication terminal 102 is managed by an administrator of the server 100. The communication terminal 102 may also be adapted for communication with the server via the network 105. The server 100 is adapted for communication with a database 140 via a communication link 186. The database 140 is adapted for communication with the network 105 via a communication link 191.

Communication terminals referred to herein may be a PC, a cellular phone, a handheld device, a PDA or other.

A communication terminal 120 is adapted for communication with the network 105 via a communication link 183. The communication terminal 120 is managed by a vendor. The communication terminal 120 is adapted for communication with a communication terminal 130. The communication terminal 130 may also be a plurality of communication terminals connected together via an intranet. The communication terminal is managed by an organization. The communication terminal 130 is adapted for communication with the network 105 via a communication link 184.

A web invoice service 175 is adapted for communication with the network 105 via a communication link 190. The web invoice service 175 is a communication terminal.

A representative of the organization provides information about the organization and specific demands relating to the administration and control of the provided information to the server by means of the communication terminal 130.

The server 100 is adapted to receive and process the provided information. As a result of the processing valuable documents, such as coupons can be generated and printed by means of the printing device 150. The processed information is stored in the database 140.

5

The created valuable documents are distributed to the organization and there provided to respective user. Each user or group of users has unique valuable documents. For example may reference number provided on a valuable document be created in dependence of a certain user or a group of users. A valuable document is described in further detail with reference to Figure 3.

10

A user then is performing a purchase in a specific store, or the like. The user may fill out certain information fields provided on the valuable document and further identify himself to a vendor. The vendor manages the communication terminal 120. Instructions how to successfully accomplish the buy is provided on for example the valuable document.

15

The vendor can receive a status report referring to the user's credit rating by connecting to the server 100 by means of the communication terminal 120. A unique reference number provided on the valuable document is used in the validation process performed in the server 100 interacting with the database 140.

20

If the validation turns out well, the purchase is accomplished. The user get access to the product or service in question.

25

The vendor is in a next step connecting to an invoice service provided by either the server 100, the organization managing the communication terminal 130 or a third party managing the communication terminal 175.

The vendor can, by means of the communication terminal 120, provide relevant information to a tailored invoice interface, such as a web-based interface. The organization can hereby get relevant information referring to the purchase in a desired format, which is easy to administrate. Preferably, the administration is performed automatically.

A bank service, not shown, is in the end performing an adequate transaction of money corresponding to the purchase.

Figure 2 illustrates an alternative embodiment concerning the validation process of the coupon 300 performed at the vendor at communication terminal 120.

A bar-code reader 135 is adapted for communication with the communication terminal 120 via a communication link 193. The bar-code reader 135 is adapted for communication with the server 100 via a communication link 189.

The vendor can by means of the bar-code reader 135 fast, accurate and secure read the unique bar-code provided on the coupon so as to perform a part of a validation procedure. Information related to the bar-code is transmitted to the communication terminal 120 and further sent to the server 100 so as to be processed.

Figure 3 schematically shows a valuable document 300, such as an invoice coupon. The invoice coupon is a printed piece of paper. Alternatively, the coupon may be composed of plastic or other material. The coupon comprises a number of information fields. The information fields may comprise printed information. The information fields may be blank. A blank information field may be filled out by the user of the coupon. Alternatively, a blank information field may be filled out by the vendor.

A first information field 310 comprises a name of the user. Alternatively, the first information field 310 comprises information related to the user so as to make an identification procedure possible.

5 A second information field 320 comprises a technical address, or the like, where to the vendor is supposed to turn to complete the purchase. In a preferred embodiment, the address is an URL-address to which the vendor can log on by using the network 105.

10 A third information field 330 comprises a unique coupon reference number N. This number is unique for the invoice coupon. The number is issued and printed by the coupon issuing device connected to the server 100. The coupon reference number can be an invoice reference number.

15 A fourth information field 340 is a blank field in which information about what product or service the buy is concerning, e.g. a PC.

In a fifth information field 350 an amount of money is supposed to be provided. The amount of money is corresponding to the value of the desired product or service.

20

In a sixth information field 360 a signature of the user is supposed to be provided, so as to accomplish the buy.

25 In a seventh information field 370 other information may be provided. According to one embodiment a bar-code is provided. The bar-code can be read by the bar-code reader 135 shown in Fig. 2.

Furthermore, on the other side of the coupon, instructions how to handle a selling procedure is given. The purpose of providing the instructions is to facilitate for the

vendor. The given instructions may be unique for a certain coupon. In a preferred embodiment the instructions are general.

Figure 4 illustrates examples of software modules stored in a memory in the server 115. The modules can be written in for example Java, C++, HTML or other.

A log on module 410 is provided so as to give access of a service provided by the server 100. The identity of a user may be established by this module.

A profile managing module 420 is provided. An administration module 425 is provided. A communication managing module 430 is provided. A coupon design module 435 is provided. A reference number generating module 440 is provided. A flow design module 445 is provided. An upgrading module 450 is provided. A currency managing module 455 is provided. A web invoice module 460 is provided. A language managing module 465 is provided. An import and export module 470 is provided. A transaction managing module 495 is provided. A rules and regulations module 490 is provided.

The software modules stored in the memory in the server 100 are not limited to the modules described with reference to figure 4 but other modules may of course be provided.

Figure 5 illustrates a method for administrating electronic documents according to an aspect of the invention. A step s501 comprises a method managing at least one valuable document, the method is comprising the steps of:

- providing information;
- creating said valuable document;
- distributing said valuable document;
- purchasing a product or a service using said valuable document; and
- validating said purchase in dependence of said valuable document

-invoicing said purchase.

Figure 6 illustrates a method in further detail according to an aspect of the invention.

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According to a first method step s600 a representative for the organization mentioned above provide the server 100 with relevant information by means of the communication terminal 130 so as to initiate a provided service. The information comprises a demand profile for each of the user who is intended to use the system.

10

According to a second method step s610 coupons are created in dependence of the information provided to the server 100 according to step s600.

15

According to a next method step s620 the created coupons are distributed to the users of the same, i.e. members of the organization, such as employees of a company.

According to a next method step s630 a user is purchasing a product or service of the vendor managing the communication terminal 120.

20

According to a next method step s640 a validation process is performed.

According to a next method step s650 an invoicing process is performed.

25

With reference to Figure 7 there is shown a diagram of one way of embodying an apparatus 700. The above mentioned communication terminal 102, 120, 130 and server 115 may include an apparatus 700. The apparatus 700 comprises a non-volatile memory 720, a data processing device 730 and a read/write memory 740. The memory 720 has a first memory portion 750 wherein a computer program, such as an operating system, is stored for controlling the function of the apparatus 700.

30

Further, the apparatus 700 comprises a bus controller, a serial communication port,

I/O-means, an A/D-converter, a time date entry and transmission unit, an event counter and an interrupt controller (not shown).

5 The data processing device 730 may be embodied by, for example, a microprocessor.

The memory 720 also has a second memory portion 760, where software modules with reference to Figure 4 are stored. In particular this concerns the server 100. In another embodiment the software modules with reference to Figure 4 are stored on a
10 separate non-volatile recording medium 762. The program may be stored in an executable manner or in a compressed state.

When it is described that the data processing device 730 performs a certain function this is to be understood that the data processing device 730 performs a certain part
15 of the program which is stored in the memory 760 or a certain part of the program which is stored in the recording medium 762.

The data processing device 730 may communicate with a data port 799 by means of a data bus 783. The memory 720 is adapted for communication with the data bus
20 783 via data bus 785. The separate non-volatile recording medium 762 is adapted to communicate with the data processing device 730 via data bus 789. The read/write memory 740 is adapted to communicate with the data bus 783 via a data bus 785.

Parts of the methods described with reference to Figures 5 and 6, respectively, can
25 be performed by the apparatus 700 by means of the data processing device 730 running the program stored in the memory portion 760. When the apparatus 700 runs the program parts of the method described with reference to Figure 5 and/or Figure 6 is executed.

When data is received on the data port 799 said input data is temporarily stored in the read/write memory 740. When the received input data have been temporarily stored, the data processing device is set up to perform execution of code in a manner described above.

5

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention has been provided for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Obviously, many modifications and variations will be apparent to practitioners skilled in the art.

10

The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical applications, thereby enabling others skilled in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments and with the various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

Claims

1. A method for managing at least one valuable document, the method is comprising the steps of:

- 5 -providing information;
- creating said valuable document;
- distributing said valuable document;
- purchasing a product or a service using said valuable document; and
- validating said purchase in dependence of said valuable document
- 10 -invoicing said purchase.

2. A method according to claim 1 characterized by

-creating said valuable document in dependence of said provided information.

15 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by

-invoicing said purchase in dependence of said provided information.

4. System for administrating purchase of a product or service using a valuable document, the system comprising:

- 20 a server 100 connected to a network 105;
- a communication terminal 120 connected to the network;
- a communication terminal 130 connected to the network;

wherein,

the communication terminal 130 being adapted to provide information to the server 105;

the communication terminal 120 being adapted to transmit information relating to the valuable document to the server so as to validate said purchase; and said communication terminal 120 being adapted to invoice said purchase in connection with the server 100.

5. Computer programme comprising a programme code for performing the method steps of claim 1-3 when said computer programme is run on a computer.
- 5 6. Computer programme product comprising a program code stored on a, by a computer readable, media for performing the method steps of claim 1-3, when said computer programme is run on the computer.
7. Computer programme product directly storable in an internal memory into a computer, comprising a computer programme for performing the method steps according to claim 1-3, when said computer programme is run on the computer.
- 10

The invention relates to a method for managing at least one valuable document. The method comprises the steps of:

- Figure 1 for publication.**

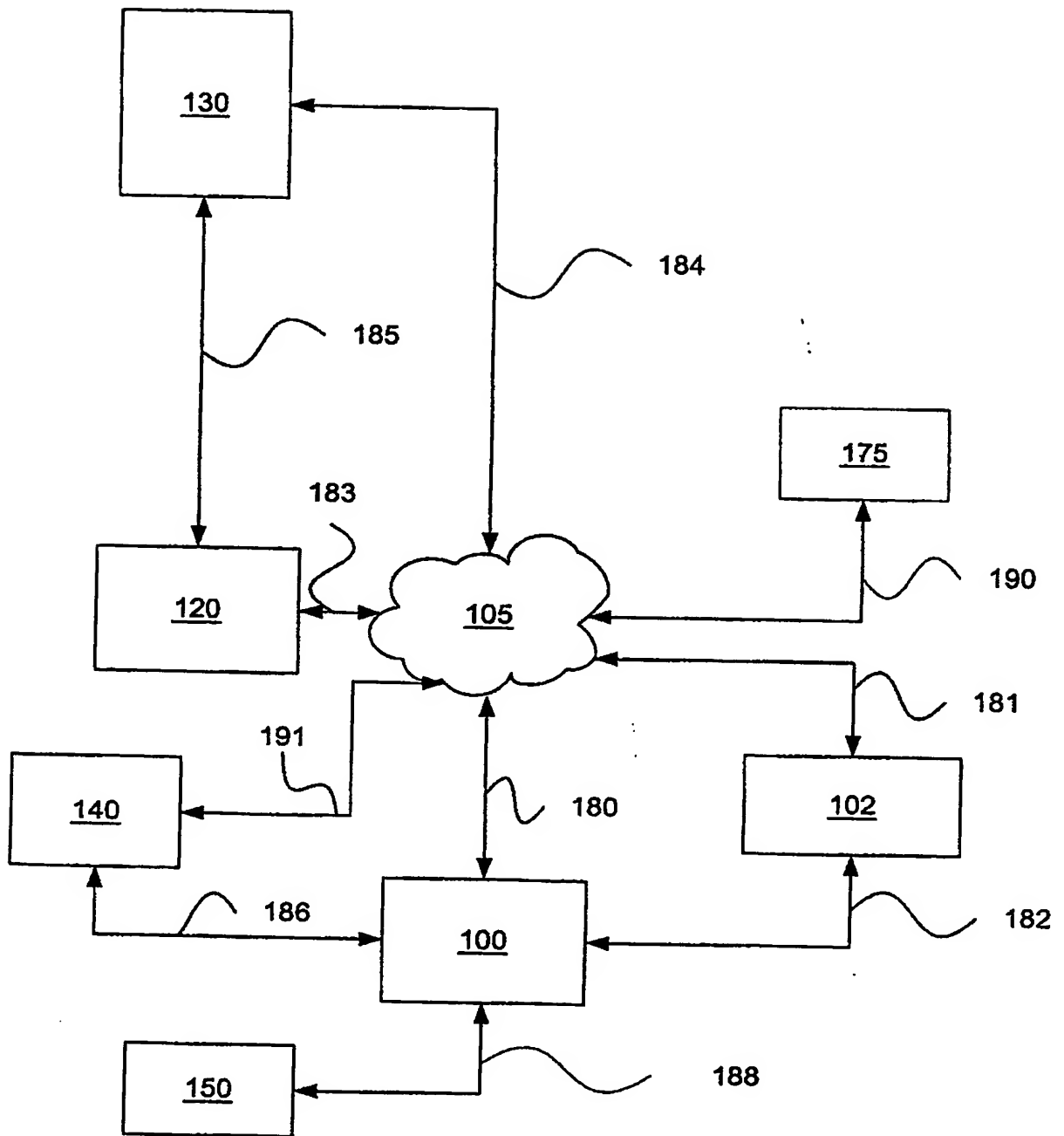


Fig. 1

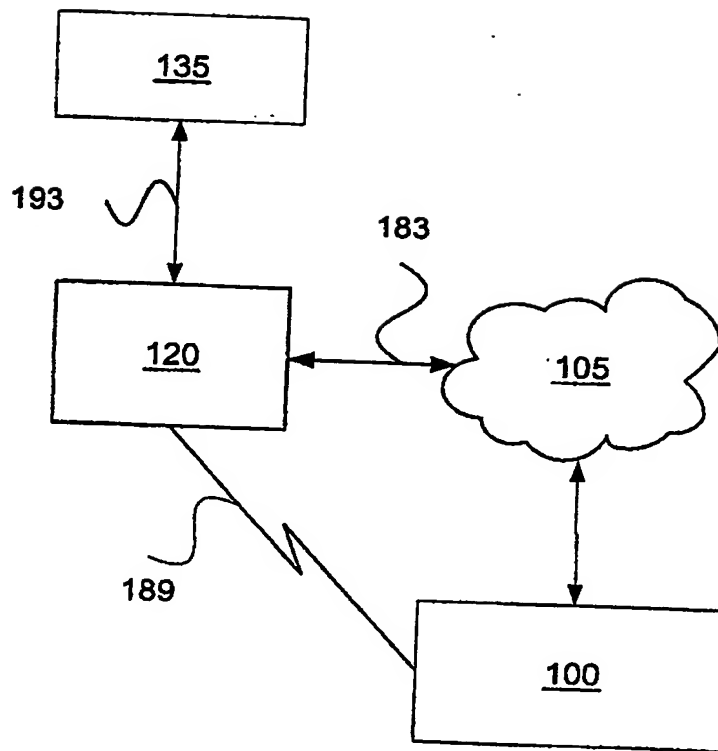


Fig. 2

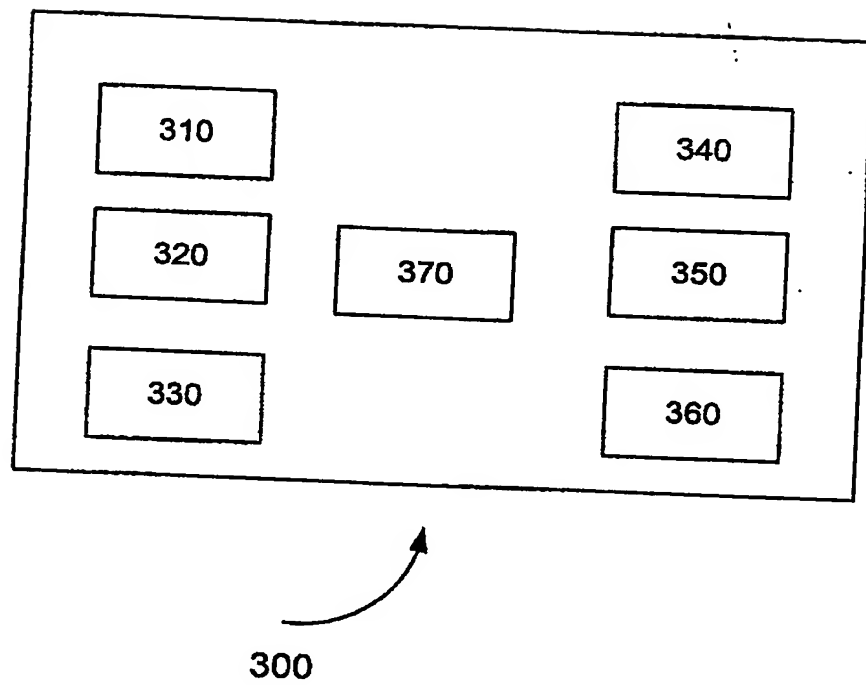


Fig. 3

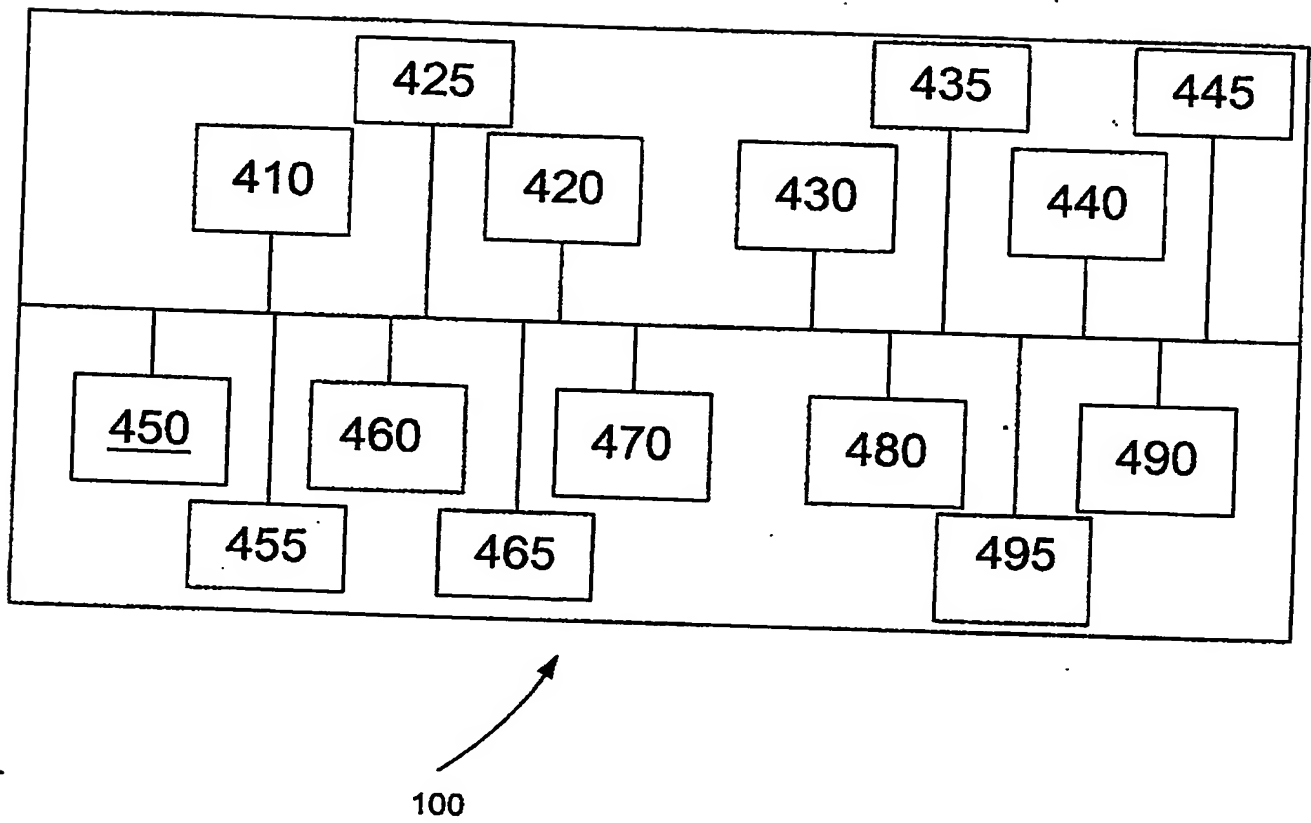


Fig. 4

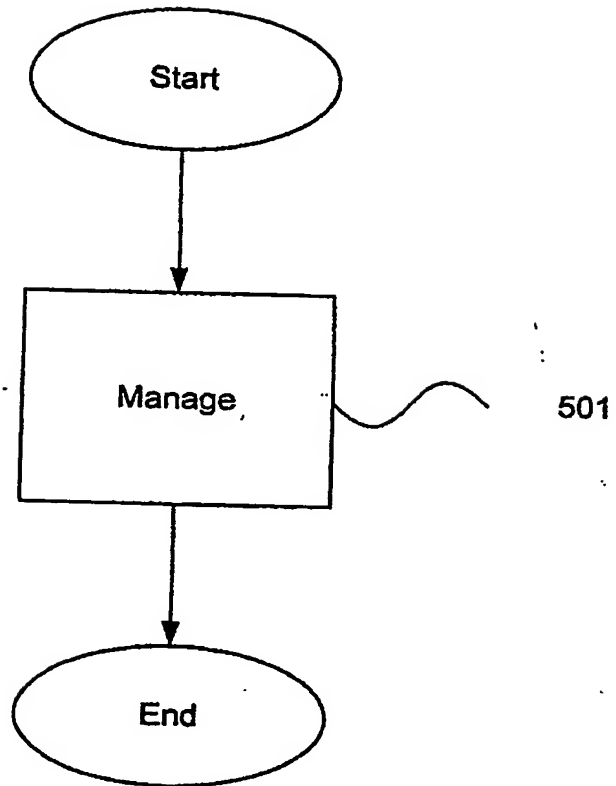


Fig.5

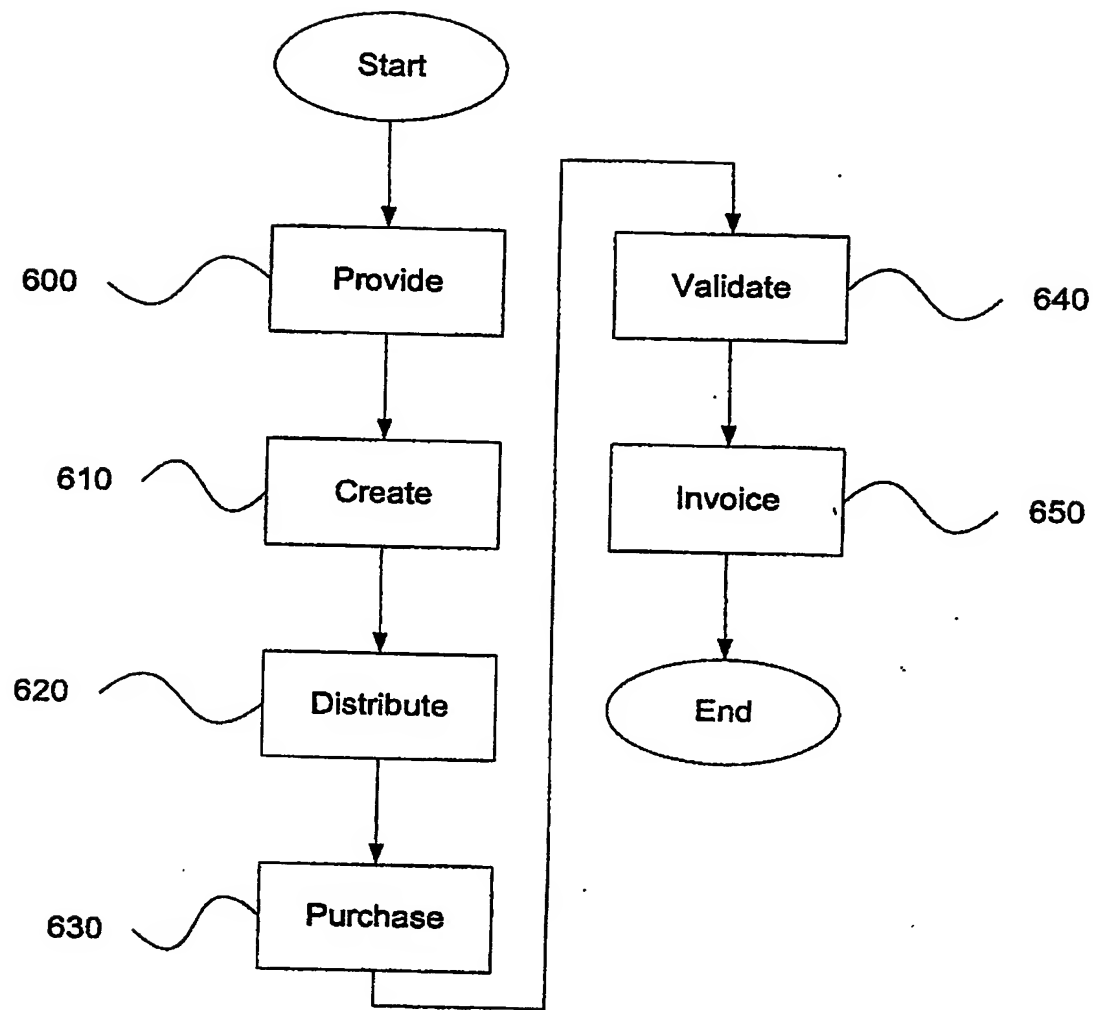


Fig. 6

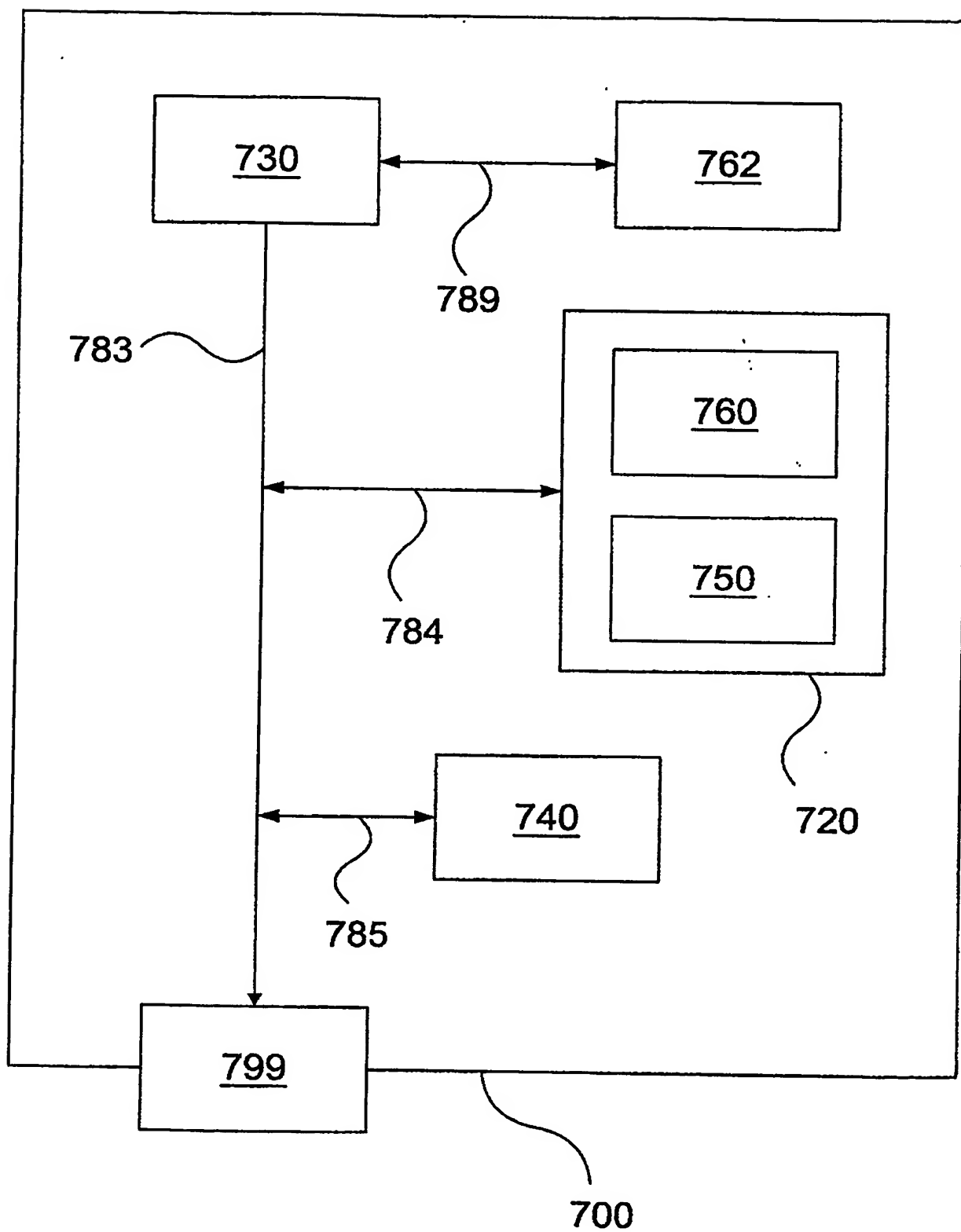


Fig. 7

Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/SE04/001861

International filing date: 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: SE
Number: 0303367-7
Filing date: 12 December 2003 (12.12.2003)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 07 January 2005 (07.01.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



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